



Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation Investigative Report



2024-2096

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 555 Independence Dr.,
Medina, Ohio 44256

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Involves: Ionut "John" Zaharia (W)
Activity Date: 07/17/2024
Activity Location: Medina County Sheriff's Office
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Goudy #83

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 1957 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy, along with SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) conducted an interview with an inmate from the Medina County Jail identified as Ionut Zaharia (Zaharia). Zaharia also goes by the name of "John." The interview was in reference to an officer involved critical incident that occurred earlier in the day at the Medina County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). Zaharia witnessed the following information from a window located within the recreation (rec) room of the jail.

Zaharia stated that while he was inside the rec room of the jail he observed through a window, in which he had a limited view, a white Buick Lucerne or Lacrosse travelling across the parking lot. Zaharia stated that he found that to be out of the ordinary due to not seeing many vehicles drive through that portion of the parking lot. During that time, Zaharia stated that he then heard a crunching sound as if the vehicle struck something, followed by a woman yelling. Zaharia stated that it sounded as if the female was yelling in a different language. He was not able to understand what she was saying. Zaharia stated he saw a male wearing a brown or red polo shirt with khaki shorts walk up to the car. Zaharia assumed that the female was yelling at him.

Shortly thereafter, he heard officers yelling for the female to "back away, back away," followed by, "drop it, drop it, drop it." A few seconds later, he heard a low caliber "pop" followed by two loud "pops." Zaharia stated it was clearly distinguishable between the first low caliber shot and the last two shots being fired. After the shots were fired, Zaharia stated that he then heard the female moaning a little bit, but that was it.

For further information please refer to "Reference item E," the recorded audio interview of Ionut Zaharia.

References:

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Reference Item E

Attachments:

None

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